



SG | Small Groups

Music is not worship.

Worship is valuing something or someone as supreme.

When you worship anything other than God, it's called idolatry.

“You must **not** have any other god but **me**.” *Exodus 20:3*

Idolatry will ruin your life.

And those who make idols are just **like them**, as are all who trust in them. *Psalms 115:8*

Dear children, keep away from anything that might take **God's place** in your hearts. *1 John 5:21*

God commands us to value Him above everything.

“You must **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” *Matthew 22:37*

“*Worship is at once the overall character of the renovated heart and the only safe place to be.*”

— Dallas Willard

Worship is a response to seeing God as He is.

“*To think rightly of God as He is, one cannot help but lapse into worship.*”

— Dallas Willard

When I **saw** him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. *Revelation 1:17*

Music is a pathway to worship.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is **unsearchable**. *Psalms 145:3*

The Lord is **gracious** and **merciful**, **slow to anger** and abounding in **steadfast love**. *Psalms 145:8*

The Lord **upholds** all who are falling and **raises up** all who are bowed down. *Psalms 145:14*

The Lord is **righteous** in all his ways and **kind** in all his works. *Psalms 145:17*

The Lord is **near** to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. *Psalms 145:18*

He **fulfills** the desire of those who fear him; he also **hears** their cry and **saves** them. *Psalms 145:19*

For the remainder of the summer, use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually. Discussion questions related to the weekend sermons will resume this fall.

Devotional Thought

The word “love” is such an overused word today. We use the same word to describe our affection for sports, our affection for food, our affection for the latest movie or song, and our affection for God. Real love is not a superficial emotion—it is often sacrificial, and always active. It is not just something we say; it is something we do!

As you read God's word this week, consider all the ways He loves you, and then find ways to show that love to others as you go throughout your day.

July 30: Romans 13:1-14

In what area of life are you called to maintain a continuing debt? Why? What specific gesture of love or kindness can you use to build a relationship this week?

July 31/August 1: Romans 14:1 – 15:22

What normal practice in your life would you be most difficult to give up if it proved to be a bad influence on others? Why? How would you distinguish between an activity that is merely permissible and one that is clearly beneficial?

August 2/3: Romans 15:23 – 16:27

In general, how would you say Paul felt about the people he mentions in this part of his letter to the Roman church? Why? What kind of qualities does Paul affirm in the people he mentions? If someone were to describe your service to the church and others, would they describe you as Paul described those in this section of scripture? Why or why not?

August 4/5: 1 Corinthians 1:1 – 2:5

Paul is concerned with division among people in the church at Corinth. How can division and disagreements among believers weaken the message of Jesus to the world? What steps could you take to heal a damaged relationship? How would the reconciliation of that relationship show God's love and power to others?

Looking for opportunities to make an impact this summer?

Here are a few ideas...

- Nursing homes are always looking for families to come in and spend time with their residents.
- Write out thank you notes and drop them off to our police and fire departments.
- Write thank you notes for those currently serving in our military. (Drop these off at the info desk at your campus and we'll mail them for you!)
- Do yardwork or household chores for an elderly couple in need.
- Serve your own family by doing their chores and/or helping them with an extra task.